

SAFR Testimony on HB 4042

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Brad Benzing and I am here representing the members of Shooters Alliance for Firearms Rights (SAFR). I would like to speak today in support of HB 4042, which would remove the requirement to be re-fingerprinted in order to renew a Concealed Pistol License (CPL).

In the 5 years since the enactment of Michigan's Shall Issue law, PA 381, many improvements have already been enacted. The most asked for enhancement among Michigan's CPL holders is to remove the requirement to be fingerprinted every 5 years when they renew their permits. While mildly inconvenient for those of us living in smaller, more rural counties, it is a great imposition for those living in the larger, more urban ones. After paying their renewal fee to the County Clerk's office, the applicant is given a receipt. In these larger counties, one must then make an appointment with their Sheriff's Department to have their prints taken. This can only be done after turning in their renewal application. It can take up to 4 weeks before their prints may be taken. It also requires taking time away from employment, another trip into the city as well as paying for parking. Not only is it inconvenient, it can become quite expensive. All of this can be compounded if the applicant's prints come back as unreadable as my wife's did a year ago when she renewed her permit. In her case, our Sheriff was very accommodating and told her to come in at her convenience to have them retaken. Those in larger counties likely will not be that fortunate.

HB 4042 will remove the inconvenience of this additional step once the Michigan State Police is able to store the applicant's fingerprints electronically. Not only will this make the process of renewal more user friendly, it will likely make it go much quicker as it will no longer be necessary to physically send the permit holder's prints to the MSP. SAFR fully supports this much needed improvement and hopes that you will vote to move this Bill today. Thank You.

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